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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(s): Schwartz et al.

SERIAL NO.: 08/973,293

ART UNIT: 2161

FILING DATE: December 1, 1997

EXAMINER: Cosimano, E.

TITLE: SECURE POSTAGE PAYMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD

ATTORNEY

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Technology Center 2100

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1)/(e)(1))

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) before the mailing date of any of a final action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. While a notice of allowance was mailed on April 4, 2001, a notice of withdrawal from issue under 37 C.F.R. § 1.313(b)(3) was mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on November 21, 2001.

This Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by the statement as specified in 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1), that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from the foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

The above-identified patent application has a counter part foreign patent application Canadian patent application No.

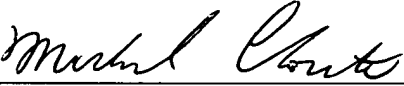
2,225,443. Applicant's attorney encloses a copy of the Office Action issued for the counter part foreign application. The Office Action cites a reference, which is listed below, which was provided with the Office Action, and is being disclosed to the Patent and Trademark Office as information that may be material to the examination of the above-identified patent application.

U.S. Patent No. 4,873,645

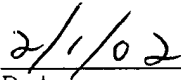
A copy of the cited U.S. patent is enclosed together with a Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's use.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



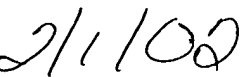
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope address to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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